

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 040434 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2365

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T SANAA 1204

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YE, SA, MASS

SUBJ: SAG INFORMS YARO OF DECISION ON EMERGENCY ARMS.

REF: JIDDA 2574

DEPARTMENT PASS CINCEUR FOR POLAD
AND SECDEF FOR ISA

1. YAR COMMANDER IN CHIEF MOHAMMAD AL- IRYANI INFORMED
AMBASSADOR JULY 2 THAT SAUDI ARABIAN MILITARY ATTACHE
HAD EARLIER CONVEYED TO HIM SAG DECISION ON YARG' S
JUNE 4 REQUEST (SANAA 1003) FOR EMERGENCY ARMS ASSIST-
ANCE. CIC OUTLINED SAUDI RESPONSE, WHICH SEEMED TO
FOLLOW VERY CLOSELY PRINCE SULTAN' S JUNE 20 COMMENTS TO
AMBASSADOR THACHER.

2. IRYANI DESCRIBED SAUDI REPLY AS VERY DISAPPOINT-
ING AND QTE HARDLY 25 PERCENT OF WHAT WE ASKED IN KEY WEAPONS
CATAGORIES UNQTE. CIC NOTED THAT PDRY HAD 48 HOURS
EARLIER LAUNCHED PITCHED BATTLE IN BAYDA BHRDER AREA.
YARG CALCULATED THAT TO MEET THREAT FROM PDRY' S THIRD
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GOVERNORATE ALONE IT NEEDED 80 NEW 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS FOR BORDER POSITIONS. SAUDIS HAD CUT REQUESTED 100 TO 20.

3. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT SAUDIS HAD PUT TOGETHER A MEANINGFUL PACKAGE EVEN IF IT IS NOT ALL THAT YEMEN WANTED. IN TRUTH, WOULD NOT YARG ADMIT THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ELEMENT OF FRIENDLY ARAB BARGAINING IN LIST OF REQUIREMENTS SUBMITTED TO SAG? YARG, AMBASSADOR FELT, WOULD BE WELL ADVISED KEEP THE PRESSURE ON SAG TO GET PROMISED EQUIPMENT HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND INTEGRATE IT RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY INTO BORDER UNITS. SAUDIS HAD SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT YEMEN'S PAST USE OF EQUIPMENT. IF THESE COULD BE OVERCOME IN THE CASE OF THIS SHOT- IN- THE- ARM PACKAGE AND A CLEAR ADDITIONAL NEED ESTABLISHED, THE YARG WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION PRESS ITS CASE FOR MORE THAN IF IT SIMPLY COMPLAINED OF INADEQUACY OF WHAT IT ABOUT TO RECEIVDM

4. COMMENT: DEPUTY CIC COL. HAMDI WAS ALSO PRESENT AT AT DISCUSSION. DESPITE AMBASSADOR'S AGRUMENT, BOTH YEMENI OFFICERS CONTINUED REFLECT DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT AT WHAT THEY REGARD AS TOKENISM OF SAUDI RESPONSE WHEN CONSIDERED IN RELATION CRITICAL NATURE OF YAR'S NEED. THEY REMAIN CONVINCED THAT ALTHOUGH SAG MAY MAKE SOME GESTURES IN RESPONSE YARG AND USG URGINGS, FUNDAMENTALLY IT HAS NOT MOVED AWAY FROM ITS HISTORIC PREFERENCE FOR A YEMEN THAT IS WEAK AND DIVIDED. WE HOPE THAT ACTUAL ARRIVAL OF EMERGENCY PACKAGE AND EARLY DECISIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF LONGER TERM RE- EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM WILL HELP DISSIPATE THIS ABIDING SUSPICION OF SAG MOTIVES, BUT BELIEVE WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT, AS OF NOW, CREDIBILITY OF OUR POLICY OF URGING YEMEN RELY ON AREA FRIENDS RATHER THAN ON DIRECT US ASSIST- ANCE IS RATHER LOW. IT HAS NOT RISEN, UNFORTUNATELY, AS RESULT SAG'S SEVERE PRUNING OF YARG'S EMERGENCY AID REQUEST.
CRAWFORD

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